

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1.-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing arthritis in an individual in need thereof comprising administering ~~ee-administering~~ methotrexate and an anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof a TNF $\alpha$ —antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts, wherein (a) the methotrexate is administered in a series of doses separated by intervals of days or weeks, (b) the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in a series of doses separated by intervals of days or weeks, and (c) the time period for administering methotrexate is simultaneous with the time period for administering the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

56.-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing rheumatoid arthritis in an individual in need thereof comprising administering ~~ee-administering~~ methotrexate and

an anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof a ~~TNF $\alpha$  antagonist~~ to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts, wherein (a) the methotrexate is administered in a series of doses separated by intervals of days or weeks, (b) the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in a series of doses separated by intervals of days or weeks, and (c) the time period for administering methotrexate is simultaneous with the time period for administering the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

61.-69. (Cancelled)

70. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the methotrexate is administered at a dose of 7.5 mg/wk or more.

71. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at a dose of 1 mg/kg or more.

72. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the methotrexate is administered at a dose of 7.5 mg/wk or more, and the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at a dose of 1 mg/kg or more.

73. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the anti-

TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is a chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment, said chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment comprising a non-human variable region specific for TNF $\alpha$  or an antigen-binding portion thereof and a human constant region.

74. (New) The method of Claim 73, wherein the chimeric antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.
75. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein the chimeric antibody competitively inhibits binding of TNF $\alpha$  to monoclonal antibody cA2.
76. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein the chimeric antibody is monoclonal antibody cA2.
77. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody is a humanized antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.
78. (New) The method of Claim 77, wherein the humanized antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.
79. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the methotrexate is administered at a dose of 7.5 mg/wk or more.

80. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at a dose of 1 mg/kg or more.
81. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the methotrexate is administered at a dose of 7.5 mg/wk or more, and the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at a dose of 1 mg/kg or more.
82. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the anti-TNF $\alpha$  antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is a chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment, said chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment comprising a non-human variable region specific for TNF $\alpha$  or an antigen-binding portion thereof and a human constant region.
83. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein the chimeric antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.
84. (New) The method of Claim 83, wherein the chimeric antibody competitively inhibits binding of TNF $\alpha$  to monoclonal antibody cA2.
85. (New) The method of Claim 83, wherein the chimeric antibody is monoclonal antibody cA2.
86. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein the anti-

TNF $\alpha$  antibody is a humanized antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

87. (New) The method of Claim 86, wherein the humanized antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.